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# MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of  
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

## MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Albert F. Root, Commissioner

Wesley Castles, Chairman

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FEBRUARY 15, 1953

### Year's Employment Gain Is 10,000 Wage Earners

Employment levels in Montana's commerce and industry start the year 1953 at 150,800, the highest point ever reached in January. This is a margin of 10,000 wage earners over January a year ago and of 9,000 over the highest previous January, in 1951. The imposing growth over the twelve-month period is highlighted by increases of 2,800 in wholesale and retail trade, 1,800 in manufacturing, 1,600 in contract construction, 1,400 in governmental units, 1,100 in mining, and lesser gains in other major industries.

#### Represents 7.3 Percent Growth

Expressed in percentage, the increased employment over a year ago is 7.3 overall. Contract construction makes the biggest proportional increase of any major industry, with 27.1 percent. This indicates the extent to which weather permitted January employment on outside projects this season. Most of the change is concentrated in residence and commercial building construction. Next in order is manufacturing, with 10.9 percent more employed this year than a year ago. Lumber and timber operations contributed heavily to this percentage with their 1,500 increase, a 30 percent gain permitted by January weather. Food and kindred products added 300, or at an 8.3 percent rate.

#### Oil and Metal Mining on Uptrend

Mining employment, which includes metal, stone, coal, and petroleum recovery, comes up with a ten percent increase. This includes a gain of 500 in metal mining over the year, and a perpendicular rise of 600 in petroleum and natural gas production, a result of extensive explorations and discoveries of oil in the eastern section of the state. Coal mining shows a decline of 200 from a year ago, partly due to the milder weather which prevailed and which reduced demand for fuel for domestic and commercial heating purposes.

#### Commerce Industries Advance Steadily

Finance, insurance and real estate increased its employment by 9.3 percent, a trend which has been maintained with clock-like regularity through recent years. Trade employment increase was at the rate of 7.8 percent. This activity furnishes the largest single block—one-fourth of the total—of employment in the industrial schedule. Wholesale trade had a six percent growth, while retail trade stands at 8.3 percent. Employment by restaurants and by automotive filling stations were chief factors in boosting the retail trade pattern.

#### Seasonal Shrinkage Below Normal

The January employment estimates show a decline of 6,300 from December, a normal seasonal occurrence and less shrinkage than for any previous post-war December to January period. The only industry which did

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### SURPLUS LABOR SUPPLY REACHES 10,600 AT JANUARY PEAK OF SEASONAL LAYOFF

Surplus of labor supply over demand in Montana reached 10,600 the last of January, a mere 250 greater than the similar surplus a year earlier. A month ago the margin was 800; its shrinkage in January reflects the effect of favorable weather which permitted a scattering resumption of outdoor work. The figures are compiled from jobseekers registered at offices of the employment service in the state. Two years ago there were 11,700 jobseekers, and three years ago the number was 18,100. Significantly, the state's industrial labor force has grown from 133,000 in January, 1950, to better than 150,000 in early 1953.

#### Outdoor Work a Prime Factor in Work Stoppages

An annual upsurge in unemployment is regularly experienced during the winter period, a result of slackening of employment in outdoor industries, principally in heavy construction, building activities, food processing enterprises, logging and lumbering, railroad maintenance, and augmented by winter cessation of most farm employment. Secondary effects are produced by reduction of force in both wholesale and retail trade, in the service industries, and by governmental units. The unemployment peak is usually registered in January and February.

#### Seventy Percent Seek Benefits

A little more than 70 percent of the present unemployment is reflected in claims for benefits by qualified workers. The weekly volume of these insurance claims has followed closely the levels of a year ago, and is substantially less than in any other post-war year. So far its peak has barely reached the half-way mark toward the 15,500 reached in late January of 1950.

#### Led by Kalispell, Billings

Heaviest concentration of jobseekers is in the Kalispell area, resulting from the concentration of seasonal construction and timber activities there. Billings ranks next in number of work applicants, followed by Great Falls, Missoula, Butte and Helena. Other substantial unemployment is reflected in Polson, Livingston, and Thompson Falls.

#### Optimistic for Spring Jobs

Labor market reports from the various areas reflect a spirit of optimism with respect to the spring and summer season. Near-completion of two government dams, Hungry Horse and Canyon Ferry, will cause some dislocation of labor force, counterbalanced by such new projects as Tiber Dam, new power unit at Polson, launching of an aluminum refining enterprise at Columbia Falls, expansion of airbase facilities at Great Falls, and the rapidly growing labor requirements of the oil industry over much of eastern Montana.

#### Continuing Demand for Mining

The metal mining and refining industry is in a healthful employment condition, with larger payrolls than a year ago and a continuing demand for additional labor qualified for its tasks. Expansion of its working force is temporarily stymied by lack of suitable housing for workers in the mines. Employment is about at its seasonal peak in the metal mines. Many of the mining force follow a seasonal pattern—working on farms, in forests, or on construction jobs

in the summer months and returning to the underground job for the winter. This annual migration normally begins in March or April.

#### Coal Mines on Slow Schedule

Coal mines are also at a seasonal peak in December and January. Mild weather this winter has reduced the fuel demand, calling for less production and fewer coal miners. Reports indicate most of the commercial mines are already on two or three days a week, and will close for the summer in about sixty days.

#### Construction Employment Shrinks

Construction employment is on its winter vacation, in keeping with normal winter schedules in this area. This is particularly true with the larger projects, where short-term resumption of work is impractical. Open weather conditions in January were favorable to such work, but so uncertain in duration that the larger outfits could not utilize the opportunity. Virtual completion of many projects, large and small, also led to shutdowns or substantial reductions of force.

#### Fewer Highway Workers

Volume of employment on state highway projects and maintenance was slightly less in January than a year ago, and similarly below the December, 1952, level. The totals indicated in highway commission reports were 810 in January, 1953; 950 in December, 1952; 970 in January a year ago, 800 in January two years ago. The shrinkage is principally in the number employed by road and bridge contractors, who had 100 on their payrolls last month, 200 in December, and 240 a year ago.

#### Spring Highway Program \$6,500,000

Work was in progress on two road jobs at the end of January, embracing 16 miles of highway, on six bridges at a contract aggregate of \$1,049,800 and on two railroad passes at \$540,100. On 23 other projects work had been suspended until more settled weather, covering 188 miles. Two bridge contracts were likewise awaiting spring

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# AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, WEEKLY HOURS, HOURLY EARNINGS

BY MONTHS (Final Estimates)

## AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS

	1951 Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
All Manufacturing .....	\$70.31	\$72.32	\$69.96	\$70.91	\$72.87	\$71.98	\$75.13	\$73.40	\$69.64	\$72.28	\$72.77
Durable Goods .....	73.74	74.21	70.60	71.69	74.16	72.91	77.23	74.91	70.64	76.26	73.22
Primary Metals .....	73.81	73.89	73.44	76.58	78.06	79.05	78.76	78.94	60.75	75.83	75.57
Nondurable Goods .....	63.50	66.43	66.54	67.53	68.44	68.10	69.22	68.59	66.27	66.71	64.40
Food and Kindred Products .....	57.53	57.59	56.86	59.67	55.87	57.89	59.36	61.37	60.20	60.73	60.44
All Mining .....	77.54	78.47	76.00	78.04	79.60	81.42	77.94	81.46	81.60	81.11	78.88
Metal Mining .....	76.09	75.63	74.47	76.28	78.19	80.74	77.48	81.44	80.31	78.87	75.51
Transportation and Utilities (except railroads) .....	63.79	65.66	65.37	66.25	65.14	67.14	68.57	68.83	69.89	68.48	68.24
Transportation .....	73.74	78.37	78.35	79.38	78.26	79.64	82.07	80.92	82.15	78.43	77.11
Utilities .....	58.58	58.52	57.81	58.65	57.19	60.03	60.73	62.06	63.10	63.39	61.88

## AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS

	1951 Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
All Manufacturing .....	40.1	41.7	40.6	41.2	41.9	41.3	42.5	41.5	38.8	41.8	40.6
Durable Goods .....	42.3	42.4	40.8	41.8	42.8	41.8	43.6	41.9	38.6	42.0	40.4
Primary Metals .....	44.2	44.5	44.1	45.7	46.3	47.0	46.6	46.7	37.6	45.3	40.0
Nondurable Goods .....	38.4	39.8	39.7	39.7	39.6	39.9	40.1	40.2	38.7	41.5	38.0
Food and Kindred Products .....	41.6	42.2	41.4	42.0	40.4	41.5	41.6	42.5	41.6	42.0	39.9
All Mining .....	42.0	42.2	41.2	41.9	41.8	43.4	41.7	42.8	43.1	42.8	40.7
Metal Mining .....	42.1	41.8	41.5	42.0	42.4	44.3	42.1	43.8	43.8	43.1	40.3
Utilities .....	38.9	38.2	38.0	38.2	37.1	39.3	39.1	39.1	39.6	40.1	40.2

## AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS

	1951 Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
All Manufacturing .....	\$1.72	\$1.73	\$1.72	\$1.72	\$1.74	\$1.74	\$1.76	\$1.77	\$1.79	\$1.73	\$1.75
Durable Goods .....	1.75	1.75	1.73	1.72	1.73	1.75	1.77	1.79	1.83	1.82	1.82
Primary Metals .....	1.67	1.66	1.67	1.68	1.69	1.68	1.69	1.69	1.62	1.68	1.58
Nondurable Goods .....	1.66	1.67	1.68	1.70	1.73	1.71	1.73	1.71	1.71	1.61	1.57
Food and Kindred Products .....	1.39	1.37	1.38	1.42	1.39	1.42	1.43	1.45	1.45	1.43	1.38
All Mining .....	1.85	1.86	1.85	1.87	1.91	1.88	1.88	1.91	1.90	1.90	1.87
Metal Mining .....	1.80	1.80	1.79	1.81	1.85	1.82	1.84	1.86	1.84	1.83	1.81
Utilities .....	1.51	1.53	1.52	1.53	1.54	1.53	1.55	1.59	1.59	1.58	1.51

(1) Revision of monthly estimates on basis of more complete reports. Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel. Average weekly and hourly earnings include overtime and other premium pay, not to be confused with rate of pay.

Average of hours worked per week has remained a fairly constant factor through the two years covered in this report. Monthly dips or rises have generally been compensated by counter-movements in subsequent periods.

Average hourly earnings reflect a general upward trend, influenced by the specific wage rates in effect. Minor seasonal changes reflect the introduction of new employees, or release of employees, at pay rates different from the full-time employees.

Since the weekly earnings are a product of hours worked and hourly earnings, the trend of earnings is a composite of the two factors, reflecting a general upward trend, with seasonal variations, to accord with changes in average hours or hourly earnings.

# LY EARNINGS, IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES<sup>(1)</sup>

Through December 31, 1952)

## LY EARNINGS

Dec.	1951 Aver.	1952 Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1952 Aver.
\$75.06	\$72.13	\$74.77	\$75.68	\$74.52	\$72.14	\$76.33	\$76.80	\$76.43	\$79.16	\$77.59	\$77.73	\$77.58	\$77.91	\$76.46
77.89	73.95	76.27	78.91	76.80	71.17	78.64	77.53	77.76	82.15	82.17	82.07	78.65	81.86	78.78
83.14	75.75	82.63	81.24	83.35	83.29	85.66	84.91	85.12	84.68	84.32	82.55	83.12	86.78	83.99
70.37	67.52	72.11	70.05	70.63	73.97	72.25	75.51	73.99	73.82	69.96	71.56	75.92	71.46	72.62
61.91	59.39	64.28	61.20	61.16	64.15	62.73	66.29	62.76	64.12	59.70	61.40	66.82	59.34	62.79
87.37	79.84	87.50	84.89	82.91	80.50	85.44	86.17	87.80	87.44	87.87	84.80	83.46	90.51	85.74
86.20	78.37	87.12	83.77	83.15	79.81	86.20	85.30	87.68	87.85	86.73	82.90	80.78	91.93	85.27
67.93	67.11	66.74	65.60	66.81	69.05	68.49	69.64	71.47	74.93	72.42	70.70	71.00	72.71	70.06
79.73	79.05	75.47	77.11	81.65	82.17	83.64	84.65	85.90	94.64	86.71	81.63	83.67	86.21	83.58
62.36	60.54	63.28	60.93	60.42	63.25	61.69	62.63	64.83	65.48	65.50	64.80	64.42	65.67	63.59

## WEEKLY HOURS

Dec.	1951 Aver.	1952 Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1952 Aver.
41.4	41.2	41.2	41.2	40.7	39.7	41.3	41.5	41.5	41.5	41.0	41.4	40.8	40.6	41.0
41.6	41.5	41.1	42.0	41.1	38.7	41.7	41.0	41.6	41.7	41.5	41.8	40.2	41.5	41.2
45.6	45.0	44.9	44.3	45.4	45.2	46.2	45.9	46.0	45.4	45.7	44.8	45.0	45.5	45.4
41.0	40.0	41.2	39.9	40.1	41.3	40.4	42.2	41.4	41.3	40.2	40.7	41.7	39.2	40.8
41.6	41.8	42.7	40.7	40.5	42.1	41.0	43.4	42.0	42.5	41.0	41.1	42.6	39.0	41.5
43.0	42.3	43.2	42.2	41.4	40.3	41.4	39.7	41.6	41.7	42.4	40.8	40.8	41.8	41.4
43.0	42.6	43.4	42.2	41.9	40.4	42.4	39.5	42.4	42.5	43.0	41.4	40.9	42.8	41.9
39.0	38.8	40.4	39.0	38.5	40.0	38.7	39.2	40.3	40.1	39.7	39.7	39.1	39.6	39.5

## LY EARNINGS

Dec.	1951 Aver.	1952 Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1952 Aver.
\$1.81	\$1.75	\$1.82	\$1.84	\$1.83	\$1.82	\$1.85	\$1.85	\$1.84	\$1.91	\$1.89	\$1.88	\$1.90	\$1.92	\$1.86
1.87	1.78	1.85	1.88	1.87	1.84	1.88	1.89	1.87	1.97	1.98	1.96	1.96	1.97	1.91
1.82	1.68	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.85	1.85	1.85	1.86	1.85	1.84	1.85	1.91	1.85
1.72	1.69	1.75	1.75	1.76	1.79	1.79	1.79	1.79	1.79	1.74	1.76	1.82	1.82	1.78
1.49	1.42	1.51	1.50	1.51	1.52	1.53	1.53	1.50	1.51	1.46	1.50	1.57	1.52	1.51
2.03	1.89	2.03	2.01	2.01	2.00	2.07	2.17	2.11	2.10	2.07	2.08	2.05	2.17	2.07
2.01	1.84	2.01	1.99	1.99	1.98	2.03	2.16	2.07	2.07	2.02	2.00	1.98	2.15	2.03
1.60	1.56	1.57	1.56	1.57	1.58	1.60	1.60	1.61	1.64	1.65	1.63	1.65	1.66	1.61

## THE MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATE SERIES

This is a supplement to the statistical series published May 10, 1952, which provided final estimates of Montana industrial employment in 1950 and preliminary estimates for 1951. In the current tabulations final figures for 1951 and the first six months of 1952 are given, along with preliminary estimates for the last half of 1952 adjusted to the new series.

Monthly estimates in this series are published in the "Montana Labor Market". Complete file of Montana industrial employment may be maintained by use of the annual summary, supplemented by the monthly estimates in the interim between annual revisions. Copies of the annual summaries giving revised figures for the years 1947 to 1950 may be had upon request.



# ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AG

## BY MAJOR INDUSTRIES AND MONTHS

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT IN THOUSANDS									
	1951 Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
<b>NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES</b>	<b>141.9</b>	<b>139.4</b>	<b>140.3</b>	<b>145.9</b>	<b>149.4</b>	<b>154.1</b>	<b>153.5</b>	<b>154.6</b>	<b>154.3</b>	<b>152.4</b>
Manufacturing	17.1	16.5	16.4	16.7	17.7	18.6	19.1	19.5	18.7	19.7
Durable Goods	10.1	10.0	9.8	10.0	10.8	11.6	11.8	11.9	11.4	11.1
Lumber and timber products	5.1	5.1	4.9	5.3	6.1	6.8	7.0	7.2	7.0	6.5
Primary metals	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.3	3.6
Other (2)	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.0
Nondurable goods	7.0	6.5	6.6	6.7	6.9	7.0	7.3	7.6	7.3	8.6
Food and kindred products	3.9	3.5	3.5	3.7	3.8	3.9	4.2	4.5	4.2	5.4
Printing and publishing	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Other (3)	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.7
Mining	10.9	10.9	10.7	10.4	10.1	10.1	10.1	9.9	10.0	10.3
Metal mining	8.5	8.6	8.4	8.2	7.7	7.6	7.7	7.3	7.2	7.4
Bituminous and soft coal mining	.8	.8	.8	.6	.7	.7	.5	.6	.7	.8
Petroleum-natural gas production	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.6
Quarrying and nonmetallic mining	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5
Contract construction	7.9	7.2	7.2	10.5	12.1	13.1	12.8	13.4	13.0	12.3
Contractors, building construction	3.5	3.0	2.8	3.7	4.3	4.9	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.2
Contractors, other than building	1.4	1.3	1.5	3.9	4.8	5.1	5.2	5.5	5.3	5.2
Contractors, special trade	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.3	3.1	2.9
Transportation and utilities	22.1	22.0	22.1	22.3	23.1	23.7	23.9	24.2	23.9	23.2
Interstate railroads	13.8	13.7	13.9	14.2	14.8	15.1	15.2	15.4	15.1	14.7
Transportation except railroads	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.6
Utilities including communication	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.9	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.1	4.9
Trade	35.4	34.8	35.4	36.8	37.3	38.5	38.3	38.5	38.5	37.8
Wholesale trade	8.0	7.8	7.9	8.1	8.1	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.5
Retail trade	27.4	27.0	27.5	28.7	29.2	30.1	30.0	30.2	30.2	29.3
General merchandise and apparel	5.9	5.7	5.9	6.0	6.0	6.1	6.0	6.1	6.2	6.2
Food stores	3.6	3.6	3.7	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.1	4.2	4.2
Eating and drinking establishments	6.6	6.6	6.7	7.2	7.4	7.7	7.8	8.0	7.7	7.7
Automotive and filling stations	4.9	4.8	4.8	5.0	5.1	5.3	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.2
Trade not elsewhere classified	6.4	6.3	6.4	6.5	6.6	6.8	6.6	6.6	6.7	6.8
Finance, insurance and real estate	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.3
Services and miscellaneous	17.5	17.3	17.5	18.1	18.6	19.5	19.4	19.7	19.7	18.4
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc	2.4	2.4	2.6	2.7	3.1	3.8	3.9	4.0	3.6	2.9
Personal services	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3
Other (4)	12.9	12.7	12.7	13.2	13.2	13.3	13.2	13.4	13.8	13.2
Government	26.9	26.7	26.9	26.9	26.3	26.3	25.6	25.1	26.1	26.4
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	13.5	13.4	13.8	13.7	13.8	14.2	14.4	14.3	14.0	13.8
Selected Industries										
Manufacturing	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.7	2.8
Transportation and utilities	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.7
Trade	5.4	5.2	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.3
Services and miscellaneous (5)	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.0

- (1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.
- (2) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.
- (3) Includes apparel, chemicals, petroleum, and miscellaneous manufacturing of non-durable products.

- (4) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, nonprofit membership organizations, and business not otherwise classified.
- (5) Same as (4) above, also includes mining, finance, insurance, and real estate.

## SIX YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1947	127.8	127.6	128.6	130.6	134.8	138.0	142.0	142.0	141.0	141.6	141.2	141.7	136.4
1948	134.4	132.0	133.2	137.1	140.6	145.8	148.9	150.3	151.4	149.6	149.4	147.7	143.4
1949	137.1	135.5	137.7	144.0	147.3	151.0	150.0	150.1	149.8	148.2	146.1	143.3	145.0
1950	133.2	132.2	135.2	142.1	147.3	153.6	154.9	157.1	156.8	152.2	150.7	148.8	147.0
1951	141.9	139.4	140.3	145.9	149.4	154.1	153.5	154.6	154.3	152.4	151.7	150.6	149.0
1952	140.5	140.8	143.0	149.7	155.0	159.9	161.1	162.7	163.3	159.6	156.6	157.1	154.1

## Along the Hiring Line ---

(Continued from Page 2)

roads are threatening to halt logging, a usual spring experience. Filling for a new bridge for the lumber plant has begun and building of two new kilns will start soon.

**LIVINGSTON, Big Timber** — (349 jobseekers; 251 men, 98 women) Construction of a new bridge over the Yellowstone has begun, will have a crew of 25 by April. Hospital project is again under way after a bad weather layoff in December. Normal seasonal release of employees from stores and service establishments after the holidays. Some hiring of extra gang laborers and roundhouse workers by the railroad in January. General farm labor in surplus, demand light.

**MALTA** — (97 jobseekers; 79 men, 18 women; 25 men and 3 women over 45) Surplus of labor is about 25 percent less than year ago. Employment in the area is considerably higher than year ago, due to active operations of oil companies. More oil exploration is in prospect, along with a clearing project and electrical expansion.

**MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Terry**—(253 jobseekers; 218 men, 35 women; 56 men and 9 women over 45) Less unemployment than a year ago, due to mild character of the winter. Some construction work continuing and a moderate demand from retail and wholesale trade since the holiday period closed. Farm demand about normal for the season, will increase in March. Railroad employment is not up to full strength.

**MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior**—(914 jobseekers; 701 men, 213 women; 274 men and 57 women over 45) Less unemployment than in January, 1952, as open weather has permitted continuation of some work ordinarily halted at this time. Several logging camps have been closed because soft roads prevent log-hauling. Reduction of sawmill force is a consequence, about 70 workers idled. Surplus of most occupational types except stenographer, nurse, and commission canvassers.

**POLSON**—(433 jobseekers; 383 men, 50 women; 161 over 45) More unemployment than a year ago, resulting from release of Hungry Horse workers who reside here and influx of applicants for Kerr power dam expansion. Tunnel contracts have been let on that project and about 90 men will be hired in February for the work. Local sawmill re-hired 40 for resumption of work, nearly two months earlier than usual.

**SHELBY, Chester, Conrad, Tiber Dam**—(119 jobseekers; 93 men, 26 women) Employment activities less than year ago; construction is at minimum and fewer transients. Prevalence of good weather has not revived construction projects closed for the winter. Tunnel work for Tiber dam is under way, with two shifts, fully manned. Concrete work will begin in April. Dirt and rock moving for the dam will start in March or April. Several road and bridge jobs to resume in March, with building construction following in April.

**SIDNEY**—(265 jobseekers; 243 men, 22 women; 72 men and 4 women over 45) Virtually all outdoor work projects are suspended, creating a substantial surplus of workers in those activities. Heavy force reductions in trade and service after the holidays helped build up the supply. The sugar plant finished its season run in January, adding 125 to the jobseeker list.

**THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs**—(340 jobseekers; 308 men, 32 women) Logging operations at a standstill, due to soft roads. Cold weather would call 45 back to work. One road construction job operating with crew of 35, may lay off during spring snows. Sawmill burned in November is being rebuilt. Larger volume of unemployment than year ago, will continue until March.

**WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey** — (174 jobseekers; 156 men, 18 women; 30 men and 4 women over 45) Construction employment was further reduced in January, resumption expected in March, along with some new projects. Three geophysical crews moved in, promotes some local employment; additional oil crews expected in spring. Normal layoffs in retail trade.

## ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	Jan. 1953 (2)	Dec. 1952 (3)	Jan. 1952	Dec. 52 to Jan. 53	Jan. 52 to Jan. 53
<b>NONAGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES..</b>	150,800	157,100	140,500	-6,300	10,300
<b>Manufacturing .....</b>	18,300	18,900	16,500	-600	1,800
Durable goods .....	11,100	11,200	9,600	-100	1,500
Lumber and timber products .....	6,500	6,600	5,000	-100	1,500
Primary metals .....	3,600	3,600	3,700	0	-100
Other (4) .....	1,000	1,000	900	0	100
Nondurable goods .....	7,200	7,700	6,900	-500	300
Food and kindred products .....	3,900	4,400	3,600	-500	300
Printing and publishing .....	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	0
Other (5) .....	1,800	1,800	1,800	0	0
<b>Mining .....</b>	12,200	12,000	11,100	200	1,100
Metal mining .....	8,900	8,800	8,400	100	500
Bituminous and soft coal mining .....	600	600	800	0	-200
Petroleum-natural gas production .....	2,100	2,100	1,500	0	600
Quarrying and nonmetallic mining .....	600	500	400	100	200
<b>Contract construction .....</b>	7,500	8,700	5,900	-1,200	1,600
Contractors, building construction .....	3,000	3,700	2,100	-700	900
Contractors, other than building .....	1,600	2,000	1,800	-400	-200
Contractors, special trade .....	2,900	3,000	2,000	-100	900
<b>Transportation and utilities .....</b>	22,800	23,000	22,200	-200	600
Interstate railroads .....	13,700	13,800	13,800	-100	-100
Transportation except railroads .....	3,800	3,800	3,400	0	400
Utilities including communication .....	5,300	5,400	5,000	-100	300
<b>Trade .....</b>	38,400	41,100	35,600	-2,700	2,800
Wholesale Trade .....	8,500	8,700	8,000	-200	500
Retail trade .....	29,900	32,400	27,600	-2,500	2,300
General merchandise and apparel .....	5,700	7,400	5,600	-1,700	100
Food stores .....	4,200	4,300	3,900	-100	300
Eating and drinking establishments..	7,500	7,700	6,400	-200	1,100
Automotive and filling stations .....	5,600	5,800	5,100	-200	500
Retail trade not elsewhere classified..	6,900	7,200	6,600	-300	300
<b>Finance, insurance and real estate .....</b>	4,700	4,800	4,300	-100	400
<b>Services and miscellaneous .....</b>	18,300	18,800	17,700	-500	600
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc. ....	2,600	2,700	2,500	-100	100
Personal services .....	2,300	2,400	2,200	-100	100
Other (6) .....	13,400	13,700	13,000	-300	400
<b>Government .....</b>	28,600	29,800	27,200	-1,200	1,400
<b>Great Falls Area (Cascade County) .....</b>	14,000	14,400	13,700	-400	300
<b>Selected Industries</b>					
Manufacturing .....	2,800	2,800	2,800	0	0
Transportation and utilities .....	2,600	2,600	2,600	0	0
Trade .....	5,300	5,700	5,200	-400	100
Services and miscellaneous (7) .....	3,300	3,300	3,100	0	200

- (1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.
- (2) Preliminary estimates based on return from sample of 557 selected Montana establishments.
- (3) Figures previously released have been revised on returns from 897 such establishments.
- (4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.
- (5) Includes apparel, chemicals, petroleum, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.
- (6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, nonprofit membership organizations and business not otherwise classified.
- (7) Same as (6) above, also includes finance, insurance, real estate and mining.



## COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET TRANSACTIONS IN JANUARY, 1953, AND JANUARY, 1952

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placements				Employer Visits		Job Openings		U. I. Claims Week 2-7	
	Jan. 1953		Jan. 1952		Jan. 1953		Jan. 1952		Jan. 1953		Jan. 1952		1953	1952	1953	1952	1953	1952
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.						
Anaconda.....	114	17	94	26	128	35	130	25	48	16	41	11	50	18	62	47	116	118
Billings.....	663	134	570	176	1,401	426	906	257	174	62	204	72	12	165	171	219	991	709
Bozeman.....	143	60	187	62	248	82	192	76	158	41	173	67	121	120	139	168	159	162
Butte.....	369	39	309	36	705	77	623	70	143	20	241	47	52	212	166	388	486	424
Cut Bank.....	86	26	129	17	216	67	222	40	26	5	15	3	67	28	22	14	175	170
Dillon.....	74	29	54	17	51	20	79	27	48	20	37	20	53	49	16	21	52	41
Forsyth.....	34	13	37	10	62	23	70	12	25	7	27	10	46	28	20	17	35	44
Fort Benton.....	29	8	24	8	41	9	32	8	11	5	14	9	37	38	6	8	37	29
Glasgow.....	127	30	89	20	289	75	184	62	68	17	86	29	80	86	79	89	122	94
Glendive.....	87	17	67	16	106	12	31	3	42	17	84	27	57	40	42	81	100	44
Great Falls.....	437	160	507	126	1,127	353	1,257	418	173	84	171	75	134	112	168	178	839	878
Hamilton.....	72	26	92	28	301	94	404	100	30	3	15	2	64	94	32	13	234	212
Havre.....	150	48	108	46	296	107	253	78	112	54	64	13	106	80	109	55	162	174
Helena.....	360	113	281	139	548	202	606	204	76	23	192	80	98	92	91	178	414	424
Kalispell.....	384	100	594	209	1,768	593	2,099	768	47	17	55	13	39	69	52	70	1,380	1,739
Lewistown.....	132	34	132	26	252	49	260	59	18	5	33	11	16	17	22	33	194	201
Libby.....	68	20	47	5	133	31	216	40	49	28	22	7	29	4	53	22	142	138
Livingston.....	82	17	129	19	349	104	394	85	73	25	107	32	98	87	49	91	211	199
Malta.....	41	15	27	6	97	32	122	36	60	34	40	17	79	64	44	45	72	100
Miles City.....	117	49	76	24	253	100	153	43	55	18	80	31	58	67	38	54	197	128
Missoula.....	275	110	261	81	914	299	979	278	131	32	121	30	98	30	122	103	752	703
Polson.....	76	13	132	21	433	110	386	108	5	1	20	3	13	16	9	18	361	311
Shelby.....	78	21	88	29	119	29	166	64	20	4	80	17	90	62	19	84	111	133
Sidney.....	169	30	82	21	265	65	260	66	54	15	53	20	94	48	59	44	188	150
Thomp. Falls.....	118	41	46	18	340	118	194	56	11	7	25	10	8	25	10	34	285	179
Wolf Point.....	100	29	83	22	174	66	152	44	19	5	27	7	30	62	19	33	161	116
Tchr. Plcmt.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	23	10	12	3	.....	.....	36	16	.....	.....
TOTALS.....	4,385	1,199	4,245	1,208	10,616	3,178	10,370	3,027	1,699	575	2,039	666	1,629	1,713	1,655	2,123	7,976	7,620

## AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)  
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Jan. (1) 1953	Dec. (2) 1952	Jan. 1952	Jan. (1) 1953	Dec. (2) 1952	Jan. 1952	Jan. (1) 1953	Dec. (2) 1952	Jan. 1952
All Manufacturing .....	\$78.75	\$77.91	\$74.77	40.7	40.6	41.2	\$1.93	\$1.92	\$1.82
Durable goods .....	80.79	81.86	76.27	41.0	41.5	41.1	1.97	1.97	1.85
Primary metals .....	86.58	86.78	82.63	45.4	45.5	44.9	1.91	1.91	1.84
Nondurable goods .....	75.15	71.46	72.11	40.3	39.2	41.2	1.86	1.82	1.75
Food and kindred products .....	63.99	59.34	64.28	41.2	39.0	42.7	1.55	1.52	1.51
All Mining .....	90.34	90.51	87.50	41.6	41.8	43.2	2.17	2.17	2.03
Metal mining .....	92.04	91.93	87.12	42.8	42.8	43.4	2.16	2.15	2.01
Transportation and Utilities (except railrds.) .....	72.33	72.71	66.74	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Transportation (except railrds.) .....	85.31	86.21	75.47	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Utilities and communication .....	65.49	65.67	63.28	39.5	39.6	40.4	1.66	1.66	1.57

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION  
COMMISSION OF MONTANA  
MITCHELL BUILDING  
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HELENA, MONTANA

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